



Rare Books Summer School 2019

Registrations close 13 January 2019

Victoria University of Wellington is delighted to host the next Australasian Rare Book Summer School: 28 January – 2 February 2019. As in years past, we try to combine a maker course with something bibliographical and technological. For 2019, we have two courses on offer: *The World of Altered Books* with Paul Thompson and *Exploring Digital Humanities: a hand-on introduction to data-driven research* with Thomas Koentges. Paul is joined by several notable Wellington-based makers including Sarah Maxey, Ya-Wen Ho, and Glenna Matcham to interrogate the book form and engineer some new, inventive possibilities for both structure and content. Thomas will help

participants explore digital humanities through theoretical and hands-on seminars, deepening their knowledge in specific areas, exploring how to: create your own personal research environment; manage, curate, and enrich data collections; analyse natural language, geospatial data, and social networks; use visualisations to reduce the complexity of data; and make use of linked data, APIs, and microservices for humanities research. For further information please follow @RareSchool <https://twitter.com/RareSchool> and to book your place contact rbss@vuw.ac.nz We hope you will join us in NZ's capital city in 2019!

Sydney Shep

YOU NEED TO READ THIS

The *Broadsheet* is Going Digital (sort of)

From the beginning of 2019 (vol. 42.1) the *Broadsheet* will be posted on the webpage, and emailed to all members in PDF form. It will no longer be included in hard copy with *Script & Print* unless you specifically ask for this to happen. If you have not already signified to Chris Tiffin your desire to keep receiving a hard copy and you wish to do so, please send an email to the Secretary, Dr Anna Welch (a.welch@slv.vic.gov.au) to this effect.

All library and institutional subscribers will continue to receive a hard copy with *Script & Print*.

President's Report 2018

The year leading up to the Brisbane BSANZ conference in November 2018 has seen changes. For some 15 months, Prof. Bryan Coleborne was Secretary, and he did sterling work in reshaping the BSANZ records. After Bryan's resignation, the post of Secretary was filled by Dr Anna Welch, State Library Victoria, Melbourne. Anna is doing an excellent job, and I think enjoying the role. Prof. Veronique Duche (Melbourne University) remains as Vice-President. She has become a vital cog in Committee matters because of her skill, among others she has, of organising ZOOM meetings. There are further changes. After many valuable years of service, Dr Chris Tiffin (Treasurer) will be stepping down. This year will be his last in the role. While I appreciate the work done by everyone on the Executive, I have valued Chris's input. His expertise (and folk knowledge of Society matters) will be greatly missed. I too will be stepping down, considering that it is about time that someone else carry the BSANZ Presidential torch.

The Society's *Script & Print* continues to appear through the good work of editor Dr Shef Rogers (English, Otago). Dr Iain Sharp relinquished his post as Book Reviews Editor; this is now filled by Dr Nicholas Sparks (Sydney). As Shef's Report will no doubt testify, he is always after good copy. Please do think about *Script & Print* as a vehicle for your next article. In addition, if you have any recommendations of books for review, titles that will suit the pages of *Script & Print*, please contact Nicholas.

The most significant happening this year was BSANZ Inc's social media presence. After realising the need for this technological advance within a rather bookish Society, and surveying members for ideas and suggestions, the team tasked at Hobart with introducing facebook and twitter etc to BSANZ members have now achieved it. To Drs Helen Bones, Jocelyn Hargraves, Amanda Laugesen, and all the others involved in this feat, I offer my hearty thanks. I am sure the social media platforms will be a positive dimension to our Society. And further to this, Dr David Large has continued to upload further issues of *Script & Print*, making them available to researchers world-wide. Please remember the website: www.bsanz.org

We are aware of the need to grow the Society and are forever asking how best to attract new members, and support up and coming scholars interested in bibliography, book history, and wider fields of print culture. One outcome is that we now offer a bursary to a member to participate in the Rare Book Summer School programmes that occur in sequence at Melbourne, Wellington, Sydney, and Dunedin. This is exciting. One other notion mooted and still to be a reality is the positions of assistant office-bearers, where new, younger, or those keen, want to learn about the roles and procedures surrounding the posts of Secretary, Treasurer etc, within the Society. In time, this pro-active succession planning strategy will happen. And on membership matters, I continue to have great pleasure in posting out letters of introduction to the BSANZ, along with a copy of the BSANZ rules. I am very pleased to announce that the number of copies of the BSANZ rules in the box behind my desk is diminishing. Not rapidly, but definitely going down!

One opportunity for BSANZ Inc to promote itself is to ally with the Melbourne Rare Book Week. We did not have a representative at the 2018 occasion. We have, however, organised Dr Patrick Spedding to be our BSANZ rep. for 2019.

As you are all aware, the BSANZ Inc conference for 2018 is at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, on 28-30 November, with the theme of 'Marginalia: Bibliography at the Margins.' I have to thank Simon Farley and his team at the University of Queensland for organising such an interesting line-up of papers. I am sure it will be a great success.

Looking Ahead

And the BSANZ conference for 2019? I am pleased to report that plans are afoot to host the 2019 conference in Melbourne. This will be an auspicious occasion, as 2019 is the 50th anniversary of the BSANZ. And already plans are afoot to celebrate the actual beginnings of the Society in February 2019. Please keep an eye on developments on these via Facebook, Twitter, and the BSANZ website. As to 2020, 2021 and beyond: nothing is set in concrete for 2020, but Auckland has stepped up and offered the City of Sails as a venue for 2021.

Everyone will note that the Committee recommends that membership and subscription rates remain unchanged. This is good news. Please mention the BSANZ to fellow scholars, librarians, bibliographers, book historians, etc., and encourage them to join.

Please do enjoy the conference, travel safe, and good wishes for the rest of 2018.

Donald Kerr

Editor's Report 2018

Script & Print

Although we still face a shortage of submissions to enable us to catch up on the missing year of articles, I am delighted to report that Nicholas Sparks is doing an excellent job as Reviews Editor and readers can expect to see a solid set of reviews in most future issues, including 41.4, which should reach subscribers before Christmas. So please speak to Nicholas if you wish to review any particular titles or indicate to him that he might call on you for particular topics.

This year three issues of *Script & Print* have appeared (41.1, 41.2 and 41.3) and one more will be delivered by the end of the year, with 41.4 about to go to the printer. That still leaves the journal one year behind, for which I apologise. Many thanks to those who have submitted articles, and I will be following up with speakers from this conference to encourage submissions. *Script & Print* is open to bibliographical notes and editorials as well as essays, and we love reviews. We also like to include illustrations in the journal, so if possible please include visual material to help tell your story.

Our overall subscription numbers remain steady at a bit over 200 (a slight drop year on year). Costs have remained fairly stable and current subscriptions remain adequate to enable production of the journal. We can afford to publish; we just need your support in encouraging submissions. As editor, I am happy to work with authors to develop pieces, and I welcome illustrations, tables, and other supporting data. If you have a postgraduate student doing interesting things with books, please encourage that student to think about *Script & Print* as a possible outlet. We offer quick turnaround of well prepared material and very personalised service.

This year I would like to thank Dr. Megan Kitching for her excellent proofreading and help with mailings. Chris and Bryan and now Anna also provide valuable updates to the mailing list, but if you feel you've missed any issue, please email me and I will try to rectify the omission.

Occasional Publications

Brian McMullin remains happy to edit any texts proposed for occasional publications. We are currently investigating an on-line publication, but are open to all formats, so please don't hesitate to enquire.

Shef Rogers

Webmaster's Report 2018

As of 8 August 2018, I took over the running of the website from David Large.

Based on requests from committee members, I've made the following minor changes:

- Latest issue of 'Broadsheet' is now available in HTML format as well as PDF (past issues as PDFs on separate page)
- Following the instigation of the Twitter and Facebook accounts, I've added links to the different pages (in the form of buttons) on the [home page](#) under a 'Social Media' section, along with a live Twitter feed connected to the society's Twitter account. Also available there is the Social Media policy put together by Jocelyn Hargrave in consultation with the Social Media sub-committee
- I've added a few more links to the UQ conference page to make sure it's easily accessible.

I'm happy to hear any other suggestions for changes to the website – especially anything relating to ease of navigation.

In comparison to last October, it would appear that the increased publicity through the media channels has boosted traffic to the website, which should only continue with increased activity leading up to the conference. It's a bit early to draw any solid conclusions, though!

The most popular article from the back issues of *Script & Print* remains Patrick Spedding's 'Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Manuscript Publication and the Vanity of Popular Applause', published in Vol 33 (2009), with a total of 3670 hits (views and/or downloads) at the time of writing.

No problems to report with webhost, platform or domain registration.

Like David, I'm happy to post notices on our news page for anything related to BSANZ activities, including but not limited to: conference CFPs, upcoming book launches or celebrations of research publications, requests for research assistance, etc. Please email h.bones@westernsydney.edu.au with any such material for the site.

Helen Bones

Social Media Sub-committee Report

The social media sub-committee—Véronique Duché, Helen Bones, Amanda Laugesen, Simon Farley, Gillian Dooley, and myself—closely collaborated in the first half of 2018 to develop the Society's social media policy. We had a wonderfully forthright and robust discussion via Google Docs, which culminated in a formal document being uploaded to the website by Helen in October.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their patience—being a sessional tutor across three institutions, teaching numerous units, often meant that I needed to coordinate sub-committee work around on-going, labour-intensive marking.

Facebook

The Society's Facebook page was launched in October 2018 (<https://www.facebook.com/bsanz.org/>) and is administered by Jocelyn Hargrave. Presently, the site has 36 followers and 31 'likes'; however, traffic within the site is greater than this number—that is, numerous people have accessed the site but have yet decided to follow it. For example, Simon's post on 20 October regarding his paper for this year's national conference reached 166 people; and the post uploaded on 26 October regarding the release of the third issue of volume 41 of *Script & Print* reached 135 people. Posts uploaded to date relate to this year's national conference, new issues of the 'Broadsheet' and *Script & Print*, relevant job postings, calls for

papers for national and international conferences, and interesting news items. Therefore, the challenge over the coming months will be to encourage the people who have not made a commitment to the Society's Facebook page to become dedicated followers of it. Advertising the site more broadly and regularly, such as on SHARP-L, will assist with growing the number of followers.

Jocelyn Hargrave

Twitter

The Twitter account for BSANZ, @BibSocANZ, was established in October 2018. It currently has 99 followers. It is currently being administered by Amanda Laugesen. The Twitter account is a useful way to build networks and raise awareness of BSANZ, as well as to publicise events such as the annual conference and new publications, etc. A key aim will be to grow the number of followers as an indicator of reach and impact.

Amanda Laugesen

Treasurer's Report

Membership

At 30 June 2018 the Society had 108 members which was 24 more than at the same time last year. We are still catching up on our invoicing cycle, however, because by 20 November that number had risen to 126, *grâce à* a flow of pertinacious reminders. The aim is to issue membership renewal invoices at the end of the preceding calendar year and to have the renewals and any necessary reminders all concluded by the end of June when our financial year closes. Allowing New Zealand members to renew their memberships by direct transfer or deposit to the Society's NZD account has proved very popular. A year ago, we introduced a scheme whereby members could authorise the Society to charge successive years' memberships to a credit card. This has had limited take-up so far, but it does make the Treasurer's life a little easier.

The 2017-18 accounts

Starting with the overall result for the year: Even though the accounts show an improvement from a deficit of \$750 last year to a surplus of more than \$13,000 this year it would be hasty to assume that this year's Committee was composed of fiscal wizards. There are several reasons for the disparity between the two years. In the first place, because of late invoicing of members, more than \$1000 worth of membership renewals that should have been included in the 2016-17 year were not received and banked until the new financial year had started. Similarly, some institutional subscriptions which were significantly in arrears were recouped in 2017-18. Third, Ian Morrison's Hobart conference was particularly successful in terms both of sponsorship and registrations, returning a larger than usual surplus to the Society. But the most important reason is the irregularity of our printing bills. If a \$6000 bill arrives and is paid just after 30 June, the accounts for the previous year will look remarkably healthy as a consequence. You will notice that we paid twice the value of invoices for printing in Year 2017 as Year 2018. Moreover, the fact that the journal is running late means that we will have a number of additional printing bills to pay as we catch up to schedule.

Web hosting and domain name charges have not changed much. The increase in "Website Expenses" was caused by our paying, as a one-off, to have some volumes of *Script & Print* digitised and uploaded to the site.

"Foreign Exchange Profit" does not indicate that we were playing the forex market. We transfer

money from time to time to our New Zealand bank account to be ready to pay printing bills that have been invoiced in NZ dollars. For auditing purposes, all NZD transactions are converted into AUD at the bank rate on the day they took place, and if there has been a dip in the NZD between the time our money was sent to New Zealand and the time our NZD cheque was presented, that shows as a (small) profit in our AUD accounts. If, however, the NZD has strengthened in the meantime it registers as a loss for the AUD account.

General Financial Situation

I find I am pretty much repeating what I said last year.

Apart from our conferences which are self-funding, the major expenses of the Society are the journal and other publications. An issue of *Script & Print* currently costs a little over NZ\$3000 to print and post, so the Society needs to collect NZ \$12,500 annually from memberships, subscriptions, and other income to break even. Conferences are budgeted simply to cover costs, but reserves held by the organizers for contingencies have often – perhaps usually – been returned to the Society as a surplus. As a result, then, conferences in most years also contribute to the Society's income.

The Society issues monographs in its *Occasional Publications* series paying the publication costs and then recouping those costs through sales. Having a solid reserve in the bank enables this process, although we have not published any *Occasional Publications* for some years. There is a modest, but incrementally growing cost in running the Society with regulatory fees, bank fees and website fees being the prominent categories. Moreover, the Committee is investigating subscribing to a membership management program to reduce the load on Secretary and Treasurer. The Society has no paid staff; Committee and Council members donate their time, and usually absorb personally small amounts needed for office supplies.

The Society is also committing money to support student and ECR members through travel bursaries to our conferences, and from 2019 through a fee-remission bursary at the ANZ Rare Book School.

All this suggests that the Society's finances are in a satisfactory position owing to its reserves, and the amount of time, expertise, and services it receives gratis. This may not continue indefinitely, however, and the Society might struggle to survive if were required to pay commercial rates for the costs incurred in its operation.

Chris Tiffin